

HIDDEN



TREASURES

Cabin Reveals Durability of Natural Resources

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IF YOU TRAVEL through eastern Coosa County on Alabama Highway 259, you might see a log cabin sitting just off the road with a sign that reads: "Adams Hunting Club." As you might guess, it is not at all unusual to see hunting camps in this rural county, which is abundantly blessed with natural resources. This hunting camp sits on and is surrounded by the J.P. Adams Estate TREASURE Forest. That in itself is not unique, but the cabin is.

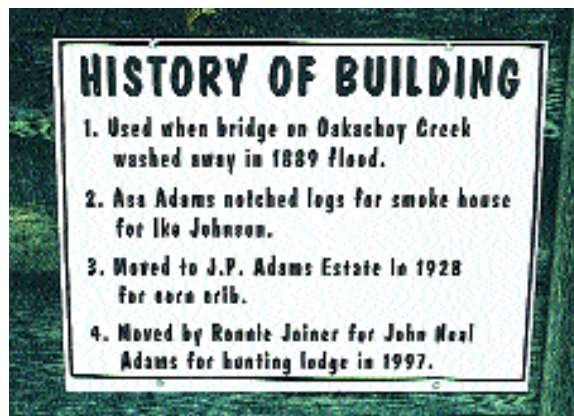
The cabin is constructed of heart pine, which was a common building material in this area many years ago. This cabin, however, was constructed in 1997. Did the owner find the lumber drying in a barn somewhere? No, these logs are well traveled and if they could talk they would have an interesting story to tell.

Running across the Adams property and under Highway 259 is the historic Oakachoy Creek. In 1889 the creek decided it would flood the road and decided to take the heart pine bridge with it. The logs were carried downstream and deposited there. Shortly thereafter Mr. Acie Adams pulled the abandoned logs from the stream and used them to build a smokehouse. The large timbers weren't easy to handle, but once built, the smokehouse functioned well for many years. The fine heart pine outlived the usefulness of the smokehouse and in 1928, John Preston Adams converted the old smokehouse into a corncrib. The heart pine corncrib served the Adamses well until their vocations changed and it was no longer needed. It stood dormant for many years until another Adams, John Neal, decided it would make a good hunting cabin. He contacted Ronnie Joiner, a local restorer of old structures, and contracted with him to create the Adams hunting camp cabin.



Before being used for this cabin, the wood was once a bridge, a smokehouse and a corncrib.

Today the Adams hunting camp occupies a place of honor on the J.P. Adams Estate. The camp house stands as a testimony to the durability of our natural resources and as a reminder that if we will take care of the land, the land will take care of us. Of course, this is also the TREASURE Forest message. Proper management of our natural resources will provide for many generations to come. Sadly, John Neal Adams passed away last year. Mr. Adams had been an active member of the Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee for several years. He was the driving force that resulted in the certification of the Adams Estate as a TREASURE Forest. His driving force was the future generations of his family. He had repeatedly



shared with me that his earnest hope was that the younger members of the family would develop a love of the outdoors and nature like he possessed. I was delighted that many of the family members were present when we awarded their TREASURE Forest certificate and sign in 1997. It is my earnest hope that each TREASURE Forest landowner will share with their younger family members what it means to properly care for our natural resources. Do it today, while you have the chance! 🌲